

Legislative Issue Brief – Next Generation 911



Catawba County Board of Commissioner's Legislative Goal

Support and encourage quicker deployment of Next Generation 911 Initiative

Background

The Nation's current 911 system is designed around telephone technology and cannot handle the text, data, images and video that are increasingly common in personal communications and critical to future transportation safety and mobility advances. The Next Generation 911 (NG 911) initiative will establish the foundation for public emergency communications services in a wireless mobile society.

Text, data, images, and video are increasingly common in personal communications and are critical to future transportation safety and mobility advances. However, the 911 system of the 1970s was created to transmit voice media only and was not designed to handle the challenges of multimedia communication in a wireless, mobile society.

The NG 911 initiative will leverage the progress from the Secretary of Transportation's Wireless E911 Initiative. The Next Generation 911 initiative will establish the foundation for public emergency services in this wireless environment and enable an enhanced 911 system compatible with any communications device.

The goal of the NG 911 initiative is to enable the transmission of voice, data, or video from different types of communication devices to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and onto emergency responder networks.

It is important that this initiative be supported and accelerated to accommodate technology that has been in common use for at least five years.

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